

where she became a social studies teacher at Newman Smith High School of Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District. From 1988 to 1992, Sandra Secrest worked as a Park Ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during her summer breaks from teaching.

After ten years of teaching, in 1993, Sandra Secrest changed her career to become a police officer for the City of Carrollton where she committed 20 years of service to the community. Ms. Secrest spent her first 5 years as a patrol officer, the following 8 years as a school resource officer, and the final 7 years back on patrol duty. As a school resource officer, she spent the majority of her time at Creekview High School and R.L. Turner High School. During her tenure as school resource officer, Ms. Secrest was a member of the Carrollton Police Department Gang Unit and Texas Gang Violence Task Force.

Sandra Secrest has spent her entire career serving and protecting her community. Ms. Secrest's commitment to her community speaks volumes to the integrity of her character. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Sandra Secrest for her 30 years of public service.

AVA KOPPERSCHLAGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ava Kopperschlager for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ava Kopperschlager is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ava Kopperschlager is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ava Kopperschlager for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
RUSSELL SIMPSON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the life of Russell Simpson, who passed from this life on Tuesday, March 15, 2013. Russell Simpson had a true servant's heart and his life helped countless others.

Mr. Simpson was born October 14, 1934. A lifelong Toledoan, he graduated from Libbey High School and served in the United States

Army. He married his wife, Patricia, in 1958 and they began their family. He was a Greyhound bus driver, a career which served him well later in life when he served older adults as a driver for senior center activities and excursions.

In 1969, the unthinkable happened and the Simpsons' four-year-old daughter was murdered. Their grief was compounded twelve years later when their nineteen-year-old son was killed during a robbery. Incredibly, out of these two horrific and senseless tragedies, the Simpsons bore fruit. In 1983, the Simpsons formed Parents of Murdered Children, a nationally recognized support group. Soon, parents with similar tragic tales had a place where they belonged and could share their grief with people who understood. As his daughter noted, "He got through it by helping other people get through it."

Russell Simpson was successful in persuading the county prosecutor to create a victims assistance fund. He trained to facilitate face-to-face meetings with victims or family members and their offender. He worked to educate the community and law enforcement to strengthen communication. Most importantly, he was a calm shoulder, a kind heart, compassionate eyes and a strong leader to families facing the ultimate tragedy.

Russell Simpson leaves a legacy of service. His selfless work will endure into the future. Even as he helped other families, he never lost sight of his own. Our condolences to his wife Patricia, his children Linda Lou and David, and his grandchildren. May the light which shone for others guide you as well, and in your memories may you find peace.

HONORING SAMANTHA HANSEN

SPEECH OF

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a young constituent, Samantha Rae Hansen of Holton, Indiana.

Samantha attended South Ripley High School and actively participated in a number of school clubs, including science, Spanish, and band. She was a school leader on the student council and served as president of the FFA and Country Critters 4-H club. Along with her family, she also was a member of the First Southern Baptist Church in Versailles, participating in the church choir.

We mourn a life that ended too soon and pray for understanding and comfort for family members and those in our community who knew and loved Samantha. While in times of turmoil we struggle to understand the unexplainable, may we find peace and joy in our religious faith and the memories of time shared with those we love.

Samantha will be forever remembered as a friend of her community. I ask the citizens of the 6th Congressional District to join me in keeping her parents, Matthew and Jenny Wahl Hansen, sisters, Amanda and Nikki, and the entire extended Hansen family in our thoughts and prayers.

BAILEE YODER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bailee Yoder for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Bailee Yoder is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Bailee Yoder is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Bailee Yoder for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT
JOSEPH DENNIS HELTON, JR.

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a special purpose, calling us all to remember and honor the life of First Lieutenant Joseph Dennis Helton, Jr. On September 8, 2009, Lieutenant Helton was tragically killed in action while serving our country in Iraq.

Like many of our nation's heroes, Lieutenant Helton was an exceptional young man with a calling to be a part of something greater than himself. His desire to serve led him to the United States Air Force Academy where he graduated fifth in his class and was the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions.

Upon graduation, Lieutenant Helton was assigned to the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. As exceptional young soldiers often do, he immediately volunteered for overseas duty, leading him to Iraq. Lieutenant Helton was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for his fortitude, bravery, and courage and the Purple Heart for his ultimate sacrifice.

As we remember and honor Lieutenant Helton and his sacrifice for our freedom, let us not forget his parents, Joseph and Jennifer, his sisters, Jeanne, Jessica, and Jordanne, and many other loving family members and friends.

Mr. Speaker, may we as grateful citizens, and Members of this body, never forget the passing of this courageous young man and encourage all Americans to honor his sacrifice which was made in defense of liberty and of this great nation. I proudly pay tribute to his memory and hold his service in the highest esteem.